

THE TENNESSEE WARS COMMISSION REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

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Director of Programs

BEAN STATION REDOUBT TO BE PRESERVED AND INTERPRETED

The Director of Programs for the Tennessee Wars Commission has entered into a partnership with Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in efforts to preserve and interpret the Civil War earthen field fortifications (called a redoubt) located on TVA property near the Historic Bean Station site in Grainger County. The partnership looks forward to developing contacts and will seek Tennessee Transportation Enhancement Funding for the creation of a boardwalk, parking space, and signage for the Bean Station Redoubt. The site is listed as one of Tennessee's 38 most significant Civil War sites as per the National Park Service's *Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields* (published in 1998).

Confederate General James Longstreet abandoned the Siege of Knoxville on December 4, 1863 and retreated northeast towards Rogersville, Tennessee. On December 14, Confederate troops attacked Union forces at Bean Station on the Holston River. After a day of heavy fighting and the arrival of additional Confederate troops, Federal forces retreated through Bulls Gap. General Longstreet soon withdrew from the area as did all Federal forces, which ended the Knoxville Campaign. Total losses for both sides at Bean Station were estimated at over 337 casualties. Official Union Engineer Corps correspondence from Bean Station prior to the Battle states, "...that the works should partake of the nature of detached redoubts, placed in defensive relations with each other and the ground they were to occupy." There is reason to believe that the above "redoubts" could indeed be referring to the remaining hill top fortification located near Bean Station.

Wars Commission staff and officials at TVA both agree that the Civil War redoubt fortifications at Bean Station should be preserved and interpreted for the general public and nation at large. TVA officials have are planning meetings with local and state officials to pursue partnerships and possibilities of developing primary and secondary “caretakers” for the historic property. In the future Bean Station will be included in Tennessee’s Civil War driving tour brochure, *A Path Divided, Tennessee’s Civil War Heritage Trail* and a new driving tour, *From Bridge to Bridge, The Civil War in East Tennessee*. Each year brings over 5 million visitors to Tennessee’s Civil War sites and Bean Station and other Civil War sites in the East Tennessee area would benefit greatly from increased tourism.

The Tennessee Wars Commission looks forward to future preservation and interpretation projects in the East Tennessee area.



TENNESSEE’S SHILOH MONUMENT

Since the June 2004 ground breaking ceremony at Shiloh National Military Park, the long anticipated Tennessee Civil War Monument continues to take physical shape through the hands of it’s sculptor “GL” Sanders. Molds of the original small clay statue (or maquette) have been constructed and are in the process of being enlarged. Engineers have completed calculations for cutting the marble base of the monument that will eventually hold the nine-foot tall bronze military figures. Within the coming year the monument will be erected just south of Water Oaks Pond, a spot familiar to many Tennessee veterans during the Battle of Shiloh.

The Tennessee Wars Commission looks forward to the construction and dedication of the larger-than-life three figure bronze sculpture that was envisioned 110 years ago through federal enabling legislation, on December 24, 1894.



PARKER’S CROSSROADS BATTLEFIELD FEATURED IN CIVIL WAR MAGAZINE

The Parker’s Crossroads Battlefield Association (PCBA) is to be commended in their efforts to promote the publication of the highlights of General Nathan Bedford Forrest’s West Tennessee Campaign of 1862. A recent issue of the award winning *Blue & Gray* magazine featured a lengthy article on the Battle of Parker’s Crossroads and the preservation and interpretive efforts to save the endangered Hallowed Ground.

Ed Bearss, Chief Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service and renowned Civil War speaker, wrote the feature article. Included in the issue is an article highlighting the Parker’s Crossroads Driving Tour and the continuing efforts

of the battlefield's preservation by the PCBA and the Tennessee Wars Commission. Numerous maps and other information that detail the actual route of Forrest's First West Tennessee Raid are incorporated into the article. Mr. Bearss' writing reflects an enormous amount of historical research and we are confident that the issue will spark more interest in battlefield preservation efforts.

With the release of the Fall 2003 issue of the *Blue & Gray* magazine, the Parker's Crossroads Battlefield website has received over 250,000 "virtual" visits by interested viewers. Through continuing research by the PCBA more battle related information has been placed on their website. To view the latest update on the website visit www.parkerscrossroads.com. The Parker's Battlefield Association welcomes your input and suggestions. If you would like to purchase the Fall 2003 issue, copies are available at \$7 (includes postage) from PCBA, Attention Blue & Gray Member, Post Office Box 265, Parker's Crossroads, TN 38388.

The Tennessee Wars Commission is currently working with the Parker's Battlefield Association to construct hundreds of yards of permanent battlefield trails along with National Park Service quality interpretive signage and kiosk. A battlefield trail brochure will also be created using matching Tennessee TEA-21 Enhancement and Wars Commission grant funds acquired last year.



PRESERVATIONIST JOHN TIMOTHY HEATH HONORED

The 2004 Robert A. "Bob" Ragland Award for Civil War Battlefield Preservation was presented to Mr. Tim Heath of Lebanon, Tennessee, at a recent Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association (TCWPA) annual membership meeting. Mr. Heath's extensive research on the Battle of Hartsville has identified key site locations that have become the subject of his new book, *Morgan's Daring Raid*. Mr. Heath has also led efforts to create a Battlefield Memorial Park in Hartsville and developed an auto-tour interpretive trail featuring the exploits of General John Hunt Morgan's command. Mr. Heath is a member of the Battle of Hartsville Preservation Committee and has received Wars Commission Grant funding for interpretive signage in the past.

"Tim Heath has worked tirelessly to bring attention to the Battle of Hartsville and to preserve the battle sites," commented Bettye Glover, Executive Director, Cumberland Valley Civil War Heritage Association (UCVCWHA). Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association President Steve McDaniel concurred, adding, "Mr. Heath's research significantly raised awareness about the story of this successfully executed Civil War cavalry raid and helped pin down the location of the battle events."

BUDGET DOUBLES FUNDS FOR CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION

President Bush's 2005 budget to Congress will more than double the amount of money set aside to protect Civil War battlefields from being developed. Congress has been asked to authorize \$5 million in federal matching grants under the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program, a \$3 million increase over 2004 and the largest amount of money awarded to the program in a single year.

The money would come out of the federal government's Land and Water Conservation Fund. It would be used by nonprofits such as the Civil War Preservation Trust to buy land that is not part of the National Park Service and which might be purchased by developers looking to build homes, offices or retail outlets. Over the past six years, Congress has set aside \$21 million in matching grants for Civil War site preservation. It approved \$8 million to be used between 1999 and 2001 and \$11 million to be used between 2002 and 2004, then authorized an additional \$2 million for 2004, after the previous money had been spent. Since 2002, Congress had been authorized to set aside as much as \$10 million in funding each year.

If Congress approves the 2005 funding in November, some of the money could also be used by the nonprofit National Trust for Historic Preservation, and by local governments to preserve and restore open space.



BREDESEN SIGNS LAND TRANSFER FOR MOCCASIN BEND NATIONAL PARK

Governor Phil Bredesen has signed a letter of intent to convey approximately 220 acres of state land on the Moccasin Bend peninsula, in Chattanooga, to the National Park Service. This transfer of property will create the Moccasin Bend National Archaeological District. The new park will become a unit of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga Civil War National Military Park. Mayor Corker and County Mayor Ramsey said they would act soon to transfer 571 acres of city and county property at the historic Bend in the Tennessee River, for the new federal park. The state land transfer is near the tip of Moccasin Bend, and does not include the main campus of the state mental facility.

Gov. Bredesen stated, "The state of Tennessee is very pleased to partner with the City of Chattanooga, Hamilton County, and the National Park Service on this important project. The Moccasin Bend property has invaluable historical and cultural significance. Working together, we're going to protect the property for the education and enjoyment of future generations."

Archaeologists and historians consider Moccasin Bend to be one of the most compelling and significant historical sites in the region. Native Americans occupied

the peninsula for more than 10,000 years, leaving behind evidence of camps, villages and burial grounds. During the Civil War, Union artillery placements on the Bend played a critical role in the Battle of Lookout Mountain.

Pat Reed, Superintendent of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park stated the National Park Service was very appreciative to Governor Bredesen and the State of Tennessee, in their shared desire to have this property protected and preserved, and to provide a greater understanding of this area's heritage. Superintendent Reed called it a very large step in realizing a dream of over 50 years and added that it will be one of the finest units of the park in the nation. For more than a half-century, stakeholders have worked to see Moccasin Bend protected and preserved. The commitment by Governor Bredesen and the state of Tennessee virtually seals the agreement to proceed with the implementation of the Moccasin Bend National Archaeological District created by federal law.

During the 1500's, Spanish explorers found the Bend to have the largest population of Native Americans in the region. In the 1700s, the Chickamauga Cherokees inhabited the area. During the Civil War, Moccasin Bend played a key role in the Battle of Lookout Mountain. Extant Civil War artillery fortifications located on the high ground of the bend are recognized as some of the best preserved in the state and will help interpret the Battles for Chattanooga.

The Wars Commission congratulates Governor Bredesen, the National Park Service, and all state and local organizations that have helped over the years to make this dream a reality. Our state's historic resources can and must be preserved.



COLORED TROOPS INSTITUTE READY TO ELECT OFFICERS

The United States Colored Troops Institute (USCTI) for Local History and Family Research at Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York, has reached a six-year milestone and is preparing to elect new officers. Since its inception in October 1998, USCTI has been led by Harry Bradshaw Matthews, associate dean and director of U.S. Pluralism Programs at Hartwick College.

The USCTI has seen rapid growth of the institute over the past six years and more than 100 members now reside in 20 states and Canada, according to the institute's website. The institute has been honored with the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust Award, the Jeffries Cary National Achievement Medal and the Senate of Maryland for its contribution to historical and genealogical research.

Tennessee's own United States Colored Troops (USCT) contribution significantly to the Federal cause during the American Civil War with over 22,000 soldiers as well as countless others who were pressed into service as laborers. Plans

are being developed to create a state-funded publication that will tell the complete story of our USCT and will be geared toward the 5th, 8th, and 11th grades in our state school system. As Director of Programs for the Tennessee Wars Commission, I have received many requests over the years (a great majority from our state teachers) to produce a publication that would address the role played by those former slaves and freed men from Tennessee who served with distinction in the Union Army.

It is hoped that Tennesseans, as well as our out of state tourists, will soon be supplied a publication that explains the heroic contributions and sacrifices made by Tennessee's United States Colored Troops and their families. We believe this type publication will inspire not only the African-American Community, but will help create and foster a greater understanding and appreciation by all the general public about the role played by Tennessee's USCTs. This information is very important to future generations because the black soldier must not be forgotten. Their participation is of extraordinary significance as they were literally fighting for freedom and acceptance by their country.



TENNESSEAN HONORED WITH CWPT PRESERVATION AWARD

During the Civil War Preservation Trust's (CWPT) recent Annual Conference held in Nashville, the CWPT announced the winners of its 2004 Preservation Awards. The awards were created to honor individuals and organizations for their exemplary dedication to the cause of Civil War preservation. During the ceremony, CWPT President Jim Lighthizer stressed the need for cooperation among preservationists, and stated that he was proud to recognize a few of CWPT's many partners with the award.

Among those partners receiving a leadership award was Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell, for his outstanding leadership on behalf of preservation of Fort Negley in Tennessee. Mr. Purcell has secured \$2 million from the city to re-open the fort to the general public.



FORT NEGLEY TOUR SIGNAGE NEARS COMPLETION

Director of Programs for the Tennessee Wars Commission, along with State Historian Walter Durham, and Dr. Bobby Lovett, Dean of Tennessee State University, were asked to review the text for proposed kiosk and interpretive signage to be erected at the Nashville Metro Parks Fort Negley site. This has now been completed and will feature fourteen trail interpretive signs.

During the opening ceremonies of the 140th Anniversary Battle of Franklin Reenactment, Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell announced that Fort Negley Park would be open to the general public in November, for the first time in nearly fifty years.



WORKING WITH SHILOH TO SAVE ADDITIONAL BATTLEFIELD

Another 7.1 acres of land is being secured at Shiloh National Military Park to help fully protect the parks integrity. The price tag of approximately \$50,000 was paid through the generosity of two gentlemen from Memphis, Tennessee, Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) Chairman Jack Gilliland, and Jack Jones. The funds are to be reimbursed by the National Park Service in the near future, which frees up the above magnanimous gift for other CWPT land purchases, including additional property at Shiloh and other important Tennessee battlefields.

The Tennessee Wars Commission continues in its long and successful partnership with the CWPT and acts as the Trust's "pass through" state agency for battlefield conservation easements. Within the last several months the partnership between the CWPT and the Tennessee Wars Commission has been able to save over 95 acres of endangered battlefield property in our state.



THE ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY AT TENNESSEE CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS

A new survey has been completed about the economic benefits of preserving Civil War battlefields. In the spring of 2003, the CWPT asked the consulting firm of Davidson Peterson Associates to conduct a study to determine who is visiting Civil War battlefields and the impact those visitors have on the economies of the surrounding regions. Several sites were chosen including Tennessee's Shiloh National Military Park and the results are listed below (a Phase 2 study of additional battlefields is underway for 2004):

Visitors to Shiloh National Military Park in Tennessee were asked to complete a short survey telling us how long they were staying in the area, how much money they were spending, their age, income, and education levels. The survey used economic models to extrapolate the larger economic benefits to the community. It turns out that preserving a Civil War battlefield in a community brings substantial economic benefits and attracts tourism to the area. The tourists pay for services in the community, which means more local jobs, higher income for residents, and increases in local and state government income from taxes.

Excerpts from the Shiloh Battlefield Visitor Survey are as follows:

- ✓ Their average age is 50 years old.
- ✓ 26% have completed college, and another 28% have completed a post-graduate program.
- ✓ Their average annual household income is \$68,333 (higher than the average traveler).
- ✓ 42% are employed in professional or technical fields.
- ✓ On average, they spend \$51.73 per person, per day during their visit.
- ✓ They originate from households with 2.6 people, and 18% were traveling with children under age 13.
- ✓ While they are in the area surrounding the battlefield, 71% of them stay in paid accommodations, and on average, they stay two to three nights.
- ✓ These Civil War tourists have already visited, on average, 7 battlefields.
- ✓ 75% of them traveled to the area specifically to see the Civil War battlefield. Visitors spent over \$13 million in the local area.

Directly and indirectly, this money supported:

- ✓ \$5.6 million in resident income.
- ✓ \$1.3 million in local government revenue.
- ✓ \$1.8 million in state government revenue.

The above statistics speak for themselves and will provide ammunition for the creation of future partnerships with local, city, and county governments in Tennessee.



NEW NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MUSEUM IN CORINTH

The recently constructed National Park Service Corinth Mississippi Civil War Interpretive Center has become a new destination for visitors leaving Tennessee's Shiloh National Military Park. The Corinth Museum now links Tennessee's twenty miles of the Shiloh to Corinth Campaign Trail with Civil War sites in Tennessee and Mississippi. The Tennessee Wars Commission successful preservation of over 200 acres of core battlefield property at Davis Bridge Battlefield, just south west of Shiloh in Hardeman and McNairy counties, is now an integral part of the Shiloh to Corinth Campaign Trail and is often referred to as the third day of the Battle of Corinth. The Wars Commission congratulates the Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission and Staff of the Shiloh National Military Park for their diligent works over the past 15 years culminating in the construction of new National Park Service Interpretive Center.

Development of local historic sites has earned the Siege & Battle of Corinth Commission the Civil War Discovery Trail Site of the Year Award. The honor was bestowed by the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT), the nation's largest non-

profit battlefield preservation organization. The Trust recognized the Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission for its outstanding commitment to preserving and promoting America's Civil War heritage.

Ms. Rosemary Williams, Chair of the above Corinth Commission, stated that the honorary award encompasses the entire local Civil War heritage preservation community, as well as support given by the staff of the Tennessee Wars Commission. The Civil War Preservation Trust's Discovery Trail links Tennessee's 61 most significant sites with 600 additional Civil War locations in 32 states, each telling its own portion of the national Civil War story. Among the sites are battlefields, historic homes, cemeteries, parks, and other places that bring history to life. The sites are chosen by the CWPT for historical significance and educational opportunities.



WARS COMMISSION REQUEST BROCHURE FUNDS

The Tennessee Wars Commission is requesting funding to reprint, *A Path Divided: Tennessee's Civil War Heritage Trail* brochure. The Commission's request for matching funds through the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) is part of the Federal Government's Transportation Enhancement Act of the 21st Century (TEA-21). Transportation Enhancement Funds will hopefully be obtained to print 250,000 copies of the Path Divided brochure each year for the next five years totaling 1.25 million copies. This will allow for the distribution of the brochure not only to all of Tennessee's Interstate Welcome Centers, but also to its 61 statewide Civil War sites and/or local convention and visitors bureaus. The brochure, funded yearly since 1997 by the Tennessee Wars Commission, has been a joint effort between the Wars Commission and the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, who deliver the publication to all Tennessee Welcome Centers.

This brochure is the only statewide driving tour publication for visitors who wish to travel to Tennessee's sixty-one Civil War sites. For a site to be listed in the brochure it must meet guidelines established by the Tennessee War Commission for inclusion on the trail. A site must be open to the public at regular hours and it must have a minimum amount of interpretation. Each year the brochure is updated by the Wars Commission to insure that the information is current.

The sites listed in the brochure are located along federal interstate or state highways and are well marked. The purpose of *Tennessee's Civil War Heritage Trail* is to use the highway system as point of departure for visitors and residents who wish to visit important Civil War sites as they travel through the state of Tennessee.

The Tennessee Wars Commission funding proposal to TDOT Enhancement Fund will be in excess of \$156,291 and will be matched, over a five-year period, with \$39,073 from the Wars Commission budget. This will save hundreds of thousands

of dollars that can be used by the Wars Commission for the preservation of our state's endangered Civil War resources.

The Tennessee Wars Commission remains firmly dedicated to the preservation of our rich Tennessee resources connected with the War Between the States. For additional news on national battlefield preservation news, visit the Civil War Preservation Trust's online newsroom at: <http://www.civilwar.org/newsroom>

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www.tdec.org/hist/PathDivided/

www.tdec.net/hist/gazette/